



### Program Data

#### *Social Security*

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 62 (with reduced benefits) or to disabled workers at any age. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, a disability, or child care requirement.

A total of 46,452,550 persons received benefits for December 2002. This number included 29,203,660 retired workers, 4,965,150 widows and widowers, 5,535,860 disabled workers, 2,832,350 wives and husbands, and 3,915,520 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.0 percent of the population 65 or older.

Retired workers received an average monthly benefit of \$895; widows and widowers, \$840 (non-disabled widows and widowers, \$861); disabled workers, \$834; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$439. Average benefits for children of deceased, retired, and disabled workers were, \$584, \$428, \$245, respectively.

Monthly benefits for December 2002 totaled \$37.9 billion. Of this amount, \$27.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children; \$5.3 billion to survivors; and \$5.0 billion to disabled workers and their spouses and children. Average and total monthly benefits include the 1.4 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2002.

In Puerto Rico, benefits were paid to 688,140 persons. This number included 310,030 retired workers; 81,360 widows and widowers; 131,340 disabled workers; 63,570 wives and husbands; and 101,840 children.

Retired workers in Puerto Rico received an average of \$592 per month; widows and widowers, \$518; disabled workers, \$713; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$263. Average benefits for children were: \$271 for children of retired workers; \$391 for children of deceased workers; and \$184 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly benefits for December 2002 totaled \$364 million. Of this amount, \$203 million was paid to retired workers and their spouses and children; \$57 million to survivors; and \$104 million to disabled workers and their spouses and children.

### Earnings and Employment Data

#### *Social Security*

Nationally, in 2001, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 153.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$4.1 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$514 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In Puerto Rico in 2001, an estimated 1.19 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$19.14 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.37 billion in Social Security taxes.

#### *Medicare*

Nationally, in 2001, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 157.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$5.1 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$147 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In Puerto Rico in 2001, an estimated 1.23 million residents worked in employment covered under the

Medicare program. They had \$20.90 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$606 million in Medicare taxes.

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SOURCE: The data are from the Social Security Administration's administrative files. Program data for Social Security are from the Master Beneficiary Record, 10 percent sample; data for SSI are from the Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data, and data reported by individual states. Earnings and employment data are from the Master Earnings File, 1 percent sample.

CONTACTS:

- Social Security data, rona.m.blumenthal@ssa.gov or 410-965-0163.
- SSI data, arthur.l.kahn@ssa.gov or 410-965-0186.
- Earnings and employment data, greg.k.diez@ssa.gov or 410-965-0153.
- Information about data processing, angela.y.harper@ssa.gov or 410-966-9541.

**Social Security Administration**

Office of Policy

Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor

Washington, DC 20254

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